November 7, 2008

Mary Croughan
Chair of the Academic Council
University of California

In Re: Expedited and Informal Review of President Yudof’s Accountability Framework

Dear Mary,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the University of California Draft Accountability Framework. Due to the expedited turn-around time, I was not able to seek full UCLA Academic Senate review, and instead limited review to the Executive Board. I look forward to receiving a later draft of the framework, at which time I would solicit a more thorough Academic Senate review.

The Executive Board reviewed the document and is quite sympathetic to the reasons President Yudof has created the framework. It is supportive conceptually of the framework, and applauds President Yudof’s efforts. Still, the Board raised several hesitations with regard to the framework, which I will outline here.

- The title, “University of California Accountability Framework” requires further clarification: Accountable to whom and in what way?
- The framework lacks an executive summary. The Board believes that the document would be greatly improved by adding an executive summary for the entire document that guides the reader through the myriad of graphs, charts, and statistics, setting a context in which to understand the data. Moreover, each section would likewise greatly benefit by a summary introductory section. Generally speaking, the document would be greatly enhanced by adding narrative.
- The Board was struck by what was absent from the report. There is nothing stated about the library, about educational technology, enrollment rates relative to campus targets, or internal salary equity rates.
- Regarding the section on Undergraduate Access, the Board found that the emphasis on SAT’s is disturbing. What other metrics, besides GPA, should be included? Some
examples include high school class ranking by decile (percent of students admitted and enrolled, by decile).

- Very little in the section on Undergraduate Student Experience and Proficiencies section addresses the actual quality of the undergraduate experience or the achievements of our students. Reports on numbers of majors, number and percent of students completing a capstone project, number of students participating in international educational experiences, etc., would greatly enhance the report.
- Regarding the section on graduate students, the Board believes that any accounting of the success of our graduate programs must consider the fact that the UC is creating the next generation of scholars, researchers, and professionals. Metrics should be developed that measure this and the narrative should clearly state it. Moreover, it would be useful to include time-to-degree data for PhD students.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to review this document. I look forward to discussing this with you further.

Sincerely,

Michael Goldstein
UCLA Academic Senate Chair

Cc: Martha Kendall Winnacker, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Jaime R. Balboa, Chief Administrative Officer, UCLA Academic Senate